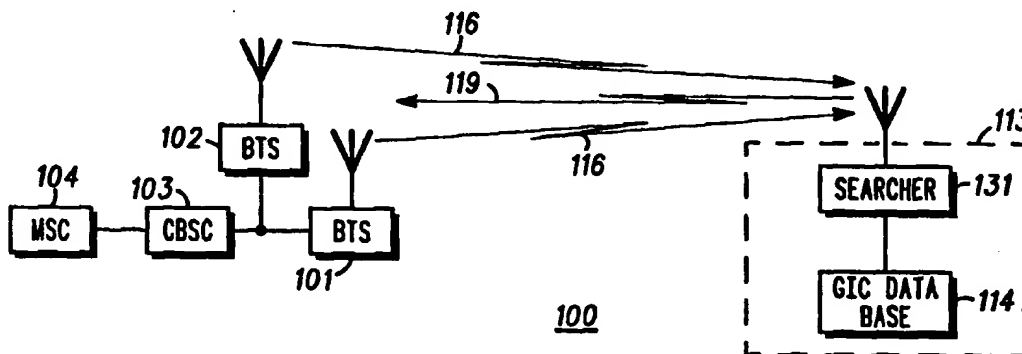


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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSMITTING INFORMATION REGARDING THE SYNCHRONIZATION STATUS OF A BASE STATION**(57) Abstract**

Base stations (101, 102) utilize a spreading code that is dependent upon whether the particular base station (101) is operating in a synchronized, or an unsynchronized mode. Unsynchronized base stations (102) within the communication system (100) utilize a long code unique to the particular base station (102), and base stations (101) operating in a synchronized mode utilize a time shifted version of the same long code. To reduce the search time for remote units (113) within the communication system (100), a group identification code (GIC) (305) is broadcast during a time period that the long code is masked. The GIC (305) indicates a (spreading code) long code group to which the long code of each base station belongs. Additionally, each base station (101, 102) within the communication system (100) determines its synchronization status and utilizes a particular GIC (305) and long code based on the base station's synchronization status.